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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel claims** 4-7, 10-23, 25-28, 34, 35, 37, 38, and 63-89 without prejudice or disclaimer, and **add claims** 90-119 as follows:

1-89. (Cancelled)

90. (New) A method of recording data during successive data recording sessions on a data storage tape of a tape cartridge loaded in a tape drive, the sessions occurring at different times, the method comprising recording data in each recording session by:

issuing a reposition command to the tape drive to indicate that the data recording session is to start;

writing a data set to the tape;

issuing a further reposition command to the tape drive;

creating a code representative of the data in the data set that has been written in the recording session between the reposition commands;

writing the code into a memory incorporated within the tape cartridge;

incrementing a code counter indicating a count of the number of codes written into the memory; and

writing the count into a count field of the memory.

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91. (New) A method according to claim 90, wherein the code is a signature.

92. (New) A method according to claim 90 wherein the code is a checksum or a cyclic redundancy check (CRC).

93. (New) A method according to claim 90, wherein the memory is a cartridge memory.

94. (New) A method according to claim 90, wherein the memory is a dedicated area of the tape.

95. (New) A method as claimed in claim 90, further including the steps of:

reading back a data set from the tape;

creating a further code representative of the data in the data set read back from the tape;

comparing the two codes; and

confirming the data set as valid only if the two codes agree.

96. (New) A method according to claim 95, wherein the comparing and confirming steps are carried out by a controlling software application.

97. (New) A method according to claim 95, wherein at least one of the comparing and confirming steps is carried out by an external

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reader which is able to at least one of access and display information recorded in the memory.

98. (New) A method according to claim 90, further including the steps of checking whether the number of codes written into the memory has reached a predetermined number and, if so, reporting the tape as read only.

99. (New) A method according to claim 98, wherein the predetermined number is 16.

100. (New) A method according to claim 90, further including the step of comparing the codes and number of entries against information held on a secure database.

101. (New) Apparatus for recording data during successive data recording sessions occurring at different times, on a data storage tape of a tape cartridge, the apparatus comprising:

a tape drive to receive the tape cartridge, and

a processor having software to control the tape drive to record data in each recording session by performing the steps of:

issuing a reposition command to the tape drive to indicate that the data recording session is to start;

writing a data set to the tape;

issuing a further reposition command to the tape drive;

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creating a code representative of the data in the data set that has been written in the recording session between the reposition commands;

writing the code into a memory incorporated within the tape cartridge;

incrementing a code counter indicating a count of the number of codes written into the memory; and

writing the count into a count field of the memory.

102. (New) Apparatus according to claim 101, wherein the code is a signature.

103. (New) Apparatus according to claim 101 wherein the code is a checksum or a cyclic redundancy check (CRC).

104. (New) Apparatus according to claim 101, wherein the memory is a cartridge memory.

105. (New) Apparatus according to claim 101, wherein the memory is a dedicated area of the tape.

106. (New) Apparatus as claimed in claim 101, wherein the processor is arranged to read back a data set from the tape, create a further code representative of the data in the data set read back from the tape, compare the two codes, and confirm the data set as valid only if the two codes agree.

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107. (New) Apparatus according to claim 106, comprising an external reader which is able to at least one of access and display information recorded in the memory.

108. (New) Apparatus according to claim 101, wherein the processor is arranged to check whether the number of codes written into the memory has reached a predetermined number and, if so, to report the tape as read only.

109. (New) Apparatus according to claim 108, wherein the predetermined number is 16.

110. (New) Apparatus for recording data during successive data recording sessions occurring at different times, on a data storage tape of a tape cartridge, the apparatus comprising:

a tape drive to receive the tape cartridge;

means for issuing a reposition command to the tape drive to indicate that the data recording session is to start;

means for writing a data set to the tape;

means for issuing a further reposition command to the tape drive;

means for creating a code representative of the data in the data set that has been written in the recording session between the reposition commands;

means for writing the code into a memory incorporated within the tape cartridge;

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means for incrementing a code counter indicating a count of the number of codes written into the memory; and

means for writing the count into a count field of the memory.

111. (New) Apparatus according to claim 110, wherein the code is a signature.

112. (New) Apparatus according to claim 110, wherein the code is a checksum or a cyclic redundancy check (CRC).

113. (New) Apparatus according to claim 110, wherein the memory is a cartridge memory.

114. (New) Apparatus according to claim 110, wherein the memory is a dedicated area of the tape.

115. (New) Apparatus according to claim 110, further comprising means to read back a data set from the tape, means to create a further code representative of the data in the data set read back from the tape, means to compare the two codes, and means to confirm the data set as valid only if the two codes agree.

116. (New) Apparatus according to claim 110, further comprising means to access and/or display information recorded in the memory.

117. (New) Apparatus according to claim 110, further comprising means to check whether the number of codes written into the memory has

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reached a predetermined number and, if so, to report the tape as read only.

118. (New) Apparatus according to claim 117, wherein the predetermined number is 16.

119. (New) Apparatus according to claim 101, wherein the processor software includes an erase command that erases both the data on the tape and the contents of the memory.

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